

CT-887

SOLOMONS SCHOOL

(1925)

Solomons

Public

The Solomons School is significant for both its role in Calvert County education and for its design. It was the first high school in southern Calvert County and also consolidated several one-room schools. Its simple, symmetrical, Classical Revival design shows a level of stylistic sophistication found in few historic schools in Calvert County. The rectangular, hip-roofed building features central porticos and wood shingle sheathing.

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☒
no ☐

Property Name: Calvert Marine Museum (Solomons High School) Inventory Number: CT-887
Address: 14150 Solomons Island Road S. (MD 2) Historic district: ☐ yes ☒ no
City: Solomons Zip Code: 20688 County: Calvert
USGS Quadrangle(s): Solomons Island
Property Owner: Board of Commissioners, Calvert County Tax Account ID Number: 0501128531
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 107 Tax Map Number: 44B
Project: MD 4: Thomas Johnson Bridge Agency: MD SHA
Agency Prepared By: MD SHA
Preparer's Name: Rebecca Crew Date Prepared: 01/28/2008

Documentation is presented in: MIHP form, prepared by Camille Wells, 1986.
Dodds, Richard J. Solomons Island & Vicinity: An Illustrated History and Walking Tour.
Calvert Marine Museum, Solomons, MD, 1995.

Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☒ Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:

Name of the District/Property: _____

Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: ☐ yes ☐ no Listed: ☐ yes ☐ no

Site visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

The Calvert Marine Museum was originally built in 1925 as the Solomons Elementary and High School. The high school remained there until 1939 and the elementary remained until 1972. From 1975-1989, it served as the Calvert Marine Museum; the exhibits then moved to a new building in 1989 and the old school became the Administration Building of the museum in 1993. It is an excellent example of a 1920s educational building. It has a hipped roof, shingle cladding, and a raised baement. The west façade has a central pedimented portico supported by Doric columns. A set of brick steps leads to double-leaf doors, each with nine lights over a single panel. Side lights flank the pair. Built with central heating and running water, the school appears to have had five classrooms, based on the fenestration. According to Solomons Island & Vicinity, the school building, on a lot of 4 acres, cost \$21,500 to build and it had central hearing, water fountains, indoor lavatories, and a teacher in each classroom. At a later date, part of the basement became a cafeteria and electricity was added. Originally, the large windows (sets of five, six-over-six, double-hung sash wiondows) let in plenty of natural light and fresh air, a common design feature of early twentieth-century schools. The consolidation of one-room schools into larger schools reflected efficiency expressed in industrial factories. While factories had little ornament, the use of classical elements such as a portico and Doric columns on this school building elevated the importance of the building, reflecting the high aspirations for the students. The use of shingle siding is unusual for schools, but the

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility not recommended ☐

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

MHT Comments:

Jim Tullman
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

[Signature]
Reviewer, National Register Program

2/24/10
Date

3/9/10
Date

200903641

Shingle Style is associated with coastal architecture, and Solomons has a definitively maritime association. The setting of the school in a water-oriented community made the use of shingles an appropriate local variation.

The Calvert Marine Museum (Solomons High School) retains a high level of integrity. Its location, feeling and association are intact, remaining an important institutional building in the community. The exterior retains integrity of design, workmanship, and materials. In changing the use of the building from a school to the administrative offices of a museum; the floorplan has been altered and new materials such as carpeting have been added. subdivided and The setting has been minimally altered by the construction of parking lots and neighboring exhibit buildings, but these changes play a role in keeping the building viable.

The Calvert Marine Museum (Solomons High School) is recommended eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C. The establishment of a school in the Solomons community reflects the growth of the town as a major community in Calvert County (Criterion A). Additionally, the unique style of the school as a Shingle Style and Colonial Revival institutional building reflects a locally-inspired variation on the educational architecture of the early twentieth century, resulting in its eligibility under Criterion C. Research has not found significant persons as defined by Criterion B to be associated with the school, and the school has not been evaluated under Criterion D.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

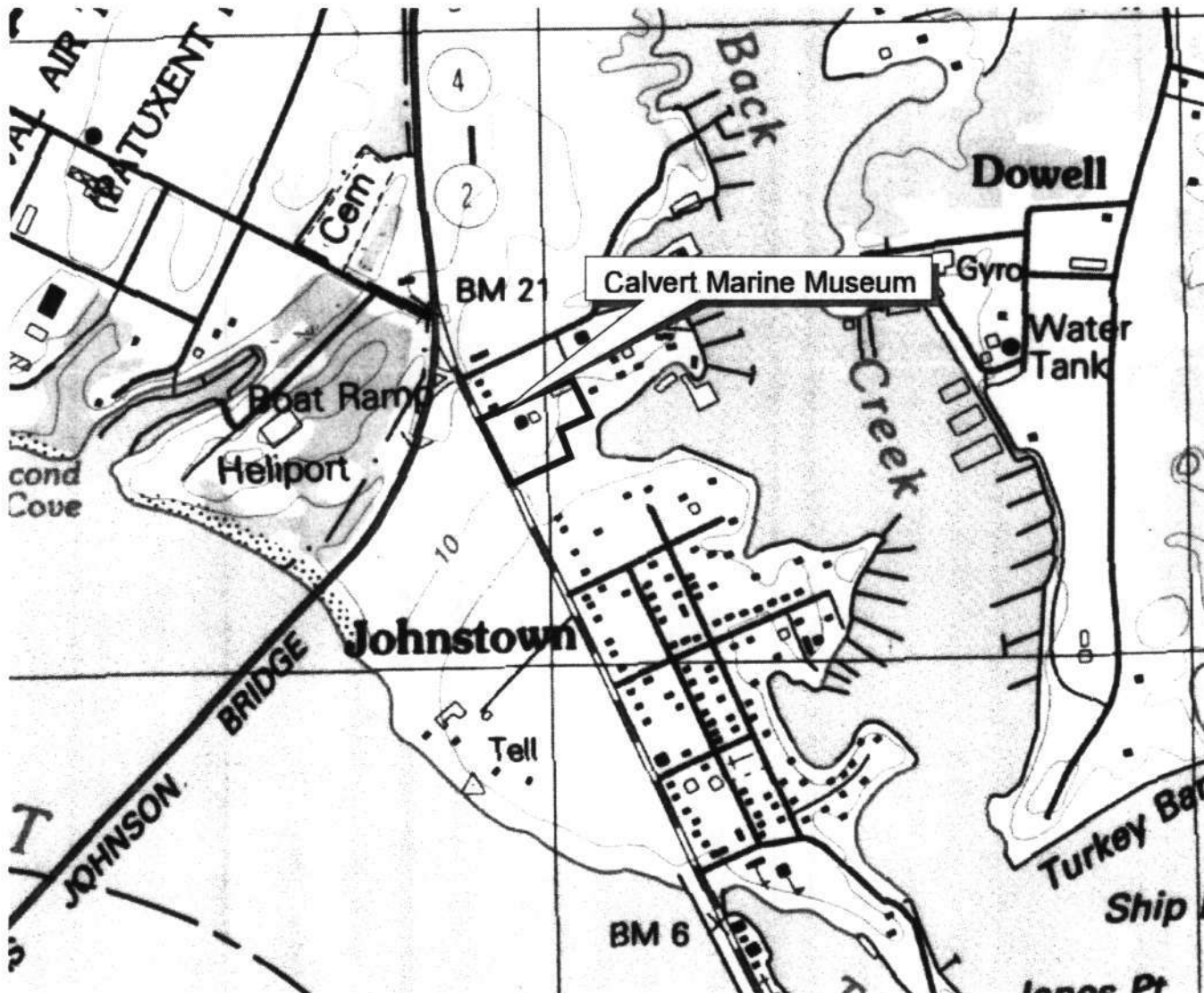
Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: _____ A _____ B _____ C _____ D Considerations: _____ A _____ B _____ C _____ D _____ E _____ F _____ G

MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services_____
Date_____
Reviewer, National Register Program_____
Date

SHA - Calvert



Calvert Marine Museum
(Solomons High School)
CT-887
14150 Solomons Island Road S.
Calvert County
Solomons Quad

Calv2007.shp
County

0.4 0 0.4 0.8 Miles





MHP-CT-887

Calvert Marine Museum (Solomons High School)

14150 S. Solomons Island Rd.

Calvert County, Maryland

Rebecca Crew, Jan. 7, 2008

MD SHPO

Facing east

1 of 2



MITP# CT-887

Calvert Marine Museum (Solomons High School)

14150 S. Solomons Island Rd.

Calvert County, Maryland

Rebecca Crew, Jan. 7, 2008

MO SHPD

Facing SW

2 of 2

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE STATE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Solomons School (CT-887)

a) Historical Period Theme: Social/Education/Cultural

b) Geographic Organization: Western Shore

c) Chronological/Developmental Period:

Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930

d) Resource Type:

Category: building

Historic Environment: village

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): school

Known Design Source: Maryland State School Architect

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. CT-887

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name

historic Solomons School (preferred)

and/or common Calvert Marine Museum Administrative Offices

2. Location

street & number East side, Solomons Island Road on Lore Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Solomons ☐ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Calvert

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Board of Commissioners of Calvert County

street & number c/o Calvert County Treasurer, 175 Main Street telephone no.: 410-535-2160

city, town Prince Frederick state and zip code MD 20678-3337

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Circuit Court Clerk's Office liber JLB 133

street & number 175 Main Street folio 458

city, town Prince Frederick state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. CT-887

Condition

☒ excellent

☐ good

☐ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered

☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date of move _____

The Solomons School is located on the east side of Solomons Island Road (Maryland Route 2), a short distance south of the divergence of Routes 2 and 4 at the south end of Calvert County. The Classical Revival building is of wood-framed construction and stands one story above a low basement constructed of concrete. The main (west) facade is three bays wide and features a central pedimented entrance portico. The Doric columns of the portico rest on high walls that flank a central brick stairway. This stairway has railings constructed of wrought iron. The portico shelters paired 9-light wood doors flanked by three-light, half-length sidelights. A second pedimented portico is centered on the south elevation. Its Doric columns are raised on plinths sheathed in patterned sheet metal. Similar porticos are also placed at the center of the north and south elevations. These porticos also shelter paired, nine-light wood-framed doors.

Each elevation is fenestrated with tall six over six, double hung windows. Two groups of five six over six, double hung, sash windows are symmetrically placed in the west facade wall to either side of the central portico. The lintels of these windows merge with a plain fascia board that extends the width of the building at the roof junction. The rear, or east, elevation is marked by three groups of five, six over six windows. A wood-framed, gable-roofed, single story addition projects from the rear wall of the former school. This addition appears to contain a refreshment stand and was probably added within the last five years. Because of its placement, it does not compromise the integrity of the building.

The walls of the building are sheathed in wood shingles. The roof junction is marked by a boxed cornice. The shallow-hipped roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles, and a brick chimney projects from the north roof slope.

8. Significance

Survey No. CT-887

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistory	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1925

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

The Solomons School is historically significant as one of the first consolidated schools in Calvert County and as the first high school serving southern Calvert County.

At the February 17, 1925 board meeting, John B. Lusby was selected as contractor for the Solomons School. Lusby received several other school building contracts at other times, including one for the Broomes Island School. The Solomons School was designed by the Maryland State School Architect. The old Solomons School building was sold for \$1,960 to John C. Kopp (School Board Minutes 5-10-26).

The first school at Solomons was said to be an old log structure moved by scow from Mill Mount near the head of Mill Creek. It stood on Williams Street, and the Knights of Pythias Lodge was later erected on its site (#43). In 1882, a new school was erected further north on the island on the east side of Solomons Island Road. This two-room school was erected on land sold by Thomas R. Moore for \$200. It was the first two-room school in the county. In 1899, this school building was replaced with a larger, three-room, wood-framed building that featured a central front gable. This building served until the erection of the present building (#8). The first Solomons building had been erected on the island proper, while the later one was about a mile north of the island on Route 2.

Local residents raised the money necessary to purchase the four-acre plot, and the school itself cost \$21,500. The school building featured central heating, water fountains, indoor lavatories, and a teacher in each classroom. Later electricity was added, and part of the basement was converted to a cafeteria.

This building served as the first lower Calvert County consolidated elementary school from 1925 to 1971 and as the high school from 1925 to 1939. At the time of its closure as a high school, two teachers taught an average of 29 students. The high school was consolidated with Calvert County High School in Prince Frederick. Frances Stevens described the Solomons High School:

The high school never had more than two teachers and they gave a full four-year course by offering English I and II on alternate years, English III and IV, General Math and Algebra, Geometry and Advanced Math, Chemistry and Physics, General Science and Biology, Civics and Ancient and Medieval History, History of the U.S. and Problems of Democracy, each of these pairs on alternate years. One year, in 1930, every one of the nine graduates of Solomons High School went on to an institution of higher learning. Five went to college (Stevens 1976:33-34).

When the consolidated school was first opened, students from Dowell, Olivet, and Rousby boarded the schoolboat *James Aubrey* for their trip to school. The schoolboat, which operated from 1925 to 1935, was under the command of Capt. Isaac "Ike" H. Hill with his son Wilson as engineer. It was one of the few schoolboats in operation east of the Mississippi. The first pickup was at about 7:30 a.m., and the one-way trip, crisscrossing St. John's and Mill creeks, took about 45 minutes. The 42-foot schoolboat had a cabin built over its entire length and was divided into three compartments: a pilot house, a passenger section, and an engine room. When ice was too thick on the creeks for the boat, the students walked to school. The water community students called themselves "up-creekers," while the non-water community students were known as "up-roaders." All that remains from the schoolboat era are some rotted pilings from the school boat pier.

The elementary school had a total of 188 students as of September 30, 1954. Mary Louise Gray, the last principal of Solomons School, described its population in the last years of its operation:

(continued on attached sheet)

Significance (continued)

Even though the building was the same, the Solomons School population had changed greatly since I was there in the early thirties. The school zone had been changed so children from as far north as St. Leonard and Long Beach were attending school there. The Naval Ordnance Laboratory, The Patuxent Air Base, and the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory had brought in families of different backgrounds. Many children had lived in other states or even other countries. No longer were most of the parents watermen. Children were brought to school in buses, with very few walking. The school-boat was long gone. The children in the school were in grades one through five. The older children were traveling on a bus to school in Prince Frederick (RTACC 1975).

As of September 30, 1954, the school had an enrollment of 188 white students. In November 1956, the school accommodated 196 students in its six classrooms.

In June 1971, the Solomons School closed, and the building was subsequently converted to facilities for the Calvert Marine Museum.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. CT-887

Dodds, Richard. *Solomons Island and Vicinity: An Illustrated History and Walking Tour*. Solomons, Maryland: Calvert Marine Museum, 1995.

Calvert County School Board Minutes [manuscript]. Brooks Administrative Center, Prince Frederick, Maryland.

Stevens, Frances G. "A History of Education in Calvert County, Maryland." 1976.

Retired Teachers Association of Calvert County, Maryland (RTACC). "Fifty Years of Education in Calvert County." 1975.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 4.1

Quadrangle name Solomons, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Map 44B, Parcel 107. This is the parcel historically associated with the Solomons School.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Douglas C. McVarish, Project Architectural Historian

organization John Milner Associates, Inc.

date May 1998

street & number 1216 Arch Street, 5th Floor

telephone 215-561-7637

city or town Philadelphia

state PA

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032
(301-514-7600)

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. CT-887

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Solomons High School

and/or common Calvert Marine Museum

2. Location

street & number Solomons Island Road S. (MD 2) ☐ not for publicationcity, town Solomons ☐ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Calvert

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Commissioners of Calvert County

street & number telephone no.:

city, town Prince Frederick state and zip code Maryland 20678

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse liber

street & number Main Street (MD 765) folio

city, town Prince Frederick state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. CT-887

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The school building faces west onto Solomons Island Road. The original brick fabric of this structure has been completely stuccoed. Set on a raised basement, the structure is one tall story in height with a broad hipped roof. The original windows are large-scaled six-over-six-light double-hung sash. However, most of the windows have been boarded over in the process of transforming this school into a museum. This change and the paint scheme have served to emphasize the west and south Doric porticos and the cornice of the building. The original columns of the west portico have been replaced. Those on the south portico are original. The front double doors have been replaced with modern vaguely classical side-lighted doors.

8. Significance

Survey No. CT-887

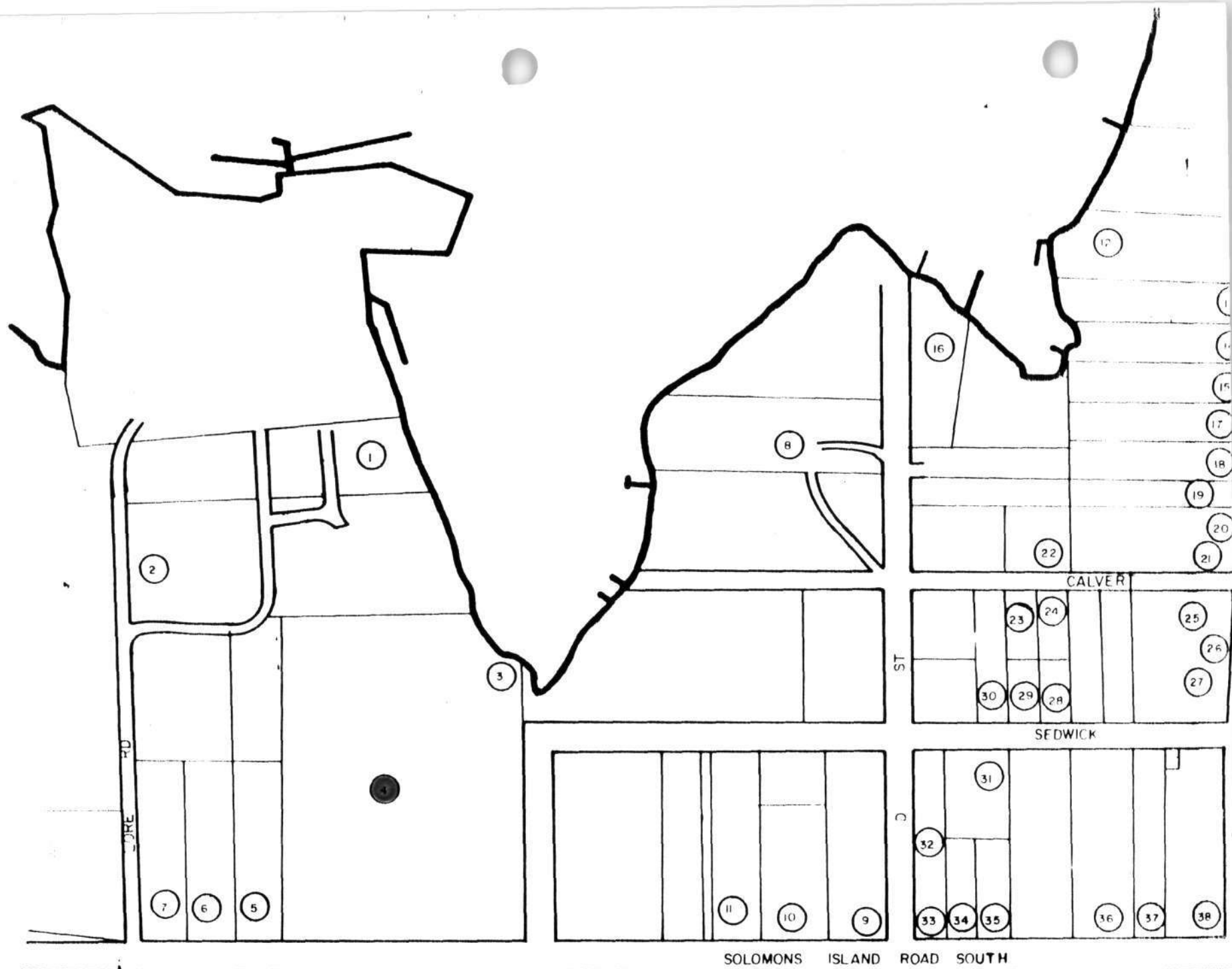
Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
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<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	1925	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria:	<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	
and/or		
Applicable Exception:	<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This structure was built in 1925 as the Solomons Elementary and High School. In 1939, the high school portion of the facility was moved elsewhere. The school was closed in 1972. The property was leased to the Calvert County Historical Society in 1973 and was opened to the public in 1975 as the Calvert Marine Museum.

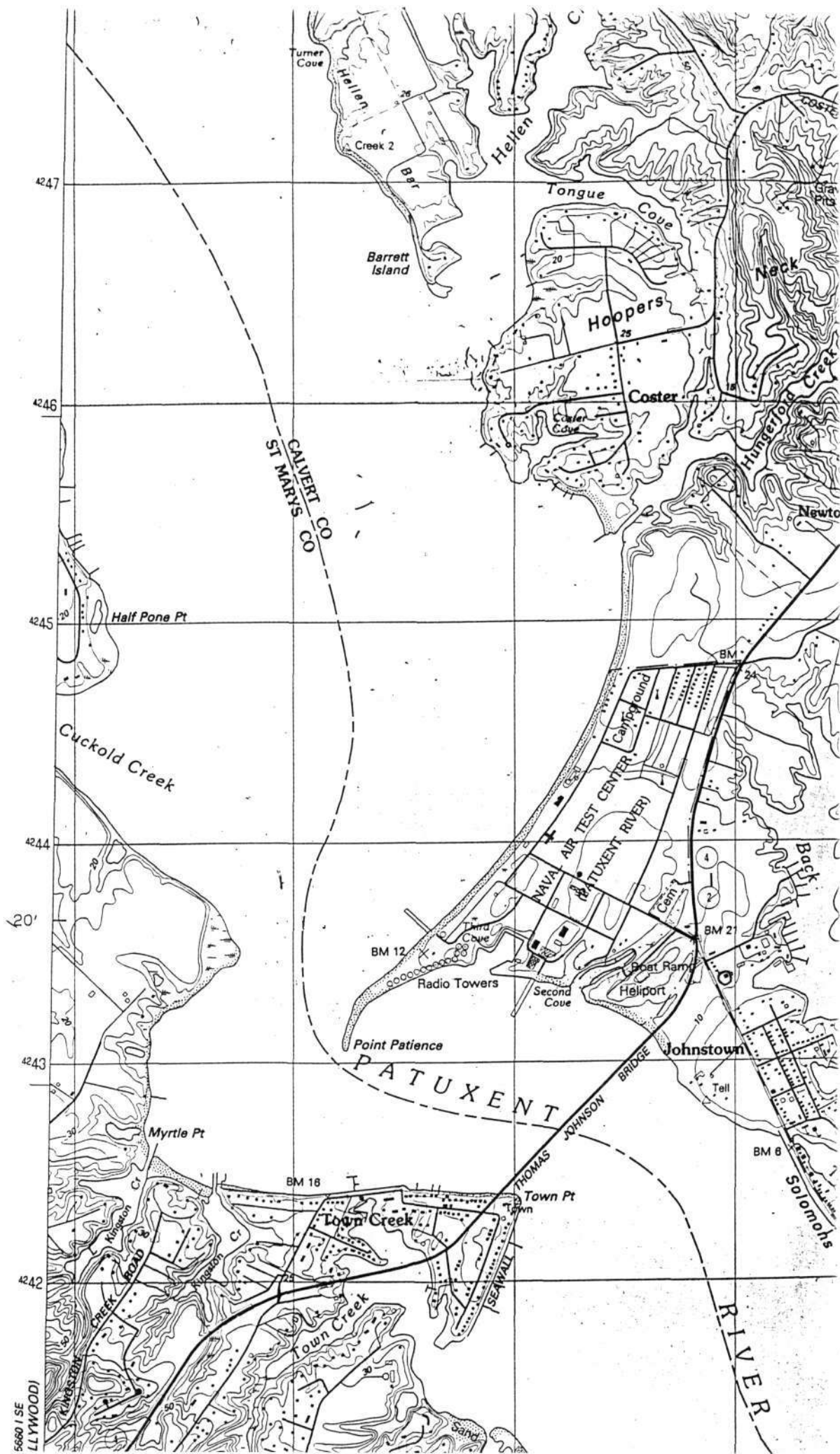
From: Historical Tours through Southern Maryland: Solomons by Foot, Bicycle, or Boat by Ralph Eshelman and Clara M. Dixon (Solomons: Calvert Marine Museum, 1983).



SOLOMONS
 CALVERT COUNTY MAPS # 44, 46
 ENLARGEMENT 2 OF 2

CT-887 (p.107)

Solomons School
Solomons
Solomons Island
quadrangle





CT-887

Solomons School

Catrect Maryland

Doug vs McVarish

March 4-8

Maryland Ship

Westale with forward east

1/2



CT-887

Solomons School

Calvert Maryland

Thomas McVern

May 202

Southland magazine subscription

1912



P5550

CT-887

Solomons School, Solomons, Maryland, in 1926 or 1927.
Copied from a postcard.

(Calvert Marine Museum photo.)



Ct-887 Calvert Marine Museum
Solomons Island Road
Solomons

Camille Wells
view from the southwest

9/86



Ct-887



CT-887

SEATTLE FILMWORKS

PRINT 15 ROLL 31418148 25AUG93

Calvert Marine Museum -- Administration
Building (renovated Solomons School),
August 1993. Photo by P. L. Berry



CT-887

THE T. J. CO. OF NEW YORK

